



The American Hosta Society

April 2021

eNewsletter



***H.* 'Mountain Snow'**

M. Zilis & T&Z Nursery 1988

(Photo by Rob James)

Table of Contents

Barry Ankney
Vice President Publications

Danny Lawson
eNewsletter Editor

Josh Spece
Webeditor-in-Chief

Andy Marlow
Glenn Herold
Warren I. Pollock
Gail Russo
Clyde Crockett
Featured Columnists



President's Message - Andy Marlow.....	3
Hostas and Associates - Glenn Herold	5
GO HOSTAS! - Warren Pollock	8
Book Notice - Clyde Crockett	29
And In Other Hosta News	31
Advertising	32

Receiving the AHS eNewsletter is **FREE and EASY!**

*To subscribe to the American Hosta Society eNewsletter
just click on this link:*

[http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Publications/
enewsletter.htm](http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Publications/enewsletter.htm)

Enter your name and email address in the spaces provided. You will be sent a confirmation by email to which you must respond in order to be placed on the distribution list. You will then automatically receive all future AHS *eNewsletters* to enjoy!

You may unsubscribe at any time by going to the same link.



President's Message

Andy Marlow, Hopkins, MN

If you're a night owl like me, you may watch The Tonight Show and know that Jimmy Fallon writes some humorous "thank you" notes every Friday night. It's not Friday, but inspired by Mr. Fallon my column is one long thank you note with nothing frivolous about it.

My first thank you goes to Danny Lawson. This is the last issue of the *eNewsletter* with Danny as editor. When I was elected back in 2019 P. P. (pre pandemic), Danny was already serving as editor this publication and also assumed editorship of *The Online Hosta Journal*. While I whined about having to write nine president's messages every year, Danny was cranking out the very lengthy *Online Hosta Journal* and six issues of the newsletters every year—a mountain to my mole hill.

When the position of Newsletter Coordinator came open, he volunteered to add that to his portfolio. And he has been very effective at that position encouraging local society newsletter editors to share their output with other societies and the national leadership. In my first year and a half in office, I don't think I ever saw a local society newsletter beyond my own Minnesota Hosta Society *Hostaphile*. Now I receive them on a regular basis.

I especially want to thank Danny for his patience in dealing with his deadline-pushing president. I spent 40 years in the radio business and was used to working right up to (and sometimes past) the deadline. Danny has not yelled at me once.

Thanks also to Danny's successor as *eNewsletter* editor, Mary Vertz of De Pere, Wisconsin. Mary is a member of the Green and Gold Hosta Society and the editor of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society newsletter, *The Hosta Leaves*. She and her husband Terry grow more than 1400 hosta varieties on their farm. If you attended the 2019 AHS convention in Green Bay, you may remember their stunning garden which included an array of beautiful blooming lupines.

We are still looking for an editor for the *Online Journal*, so if you know someone who appears qualified, let me know.

Thanks greatly to Barry Ankney, AHS Vice President Publications. He suggested Mary's name to me, plus a few people for other positions. He was so helpful, I asked him to serve on the nominating committee, as this year all AHS elective offices are up for election. He readily agreed—in fact I think he volunteered. And to top it off, he agreed to become the new AHS Membership Secretary.

Next, thanks to Don Dean. He and Mary Schwartzbauer have been my mentors in the very unfamiliar role of president. He suggested the name of Barb Schroeder to chair the nominating committee. Plus, he agreed to serve on it.

Huge thanks to Ms Schroeder for agreeing to Don's suggestion. It took a little back and forth, but once she agreed, she got right to work. She and committee members Ankney and Dean reported back with a complete slate in less than a week. Their nominations will be published in the July *eNewsletter* in time for the virtual 2021 convention.

Finally, the thank you cannot be large enough to Sandie Markland, who is stepping down after 18 years as AHS Membership Secretary. She has worked quietly behind the scenes managing the sometimes messy job of keeping track of memberships and coordinating with our webmaster to make sure members get their online publications and notices. She has been immensely successful in this position.

On another note, have you registered for the 2021 virtual convention yet? I have! It's easy and the \$49.00 registration fee is an incredible bargain. Go to <http://ahs2021.org> and get your registration in today

Andy Marlow
AHS President



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

‘Sagae’: 2000 Hosta of the Year

‘Sagae’ is a plant that has actually been registered twice with the American Hosta Society. The first time was in 1987 as *Hosta fluctuans* ‘Variegated’. The second was as ‘Sagae’ in 1996. The reason for the change was that the first name was considered to be invalid. A cultivar cannot be named ‘Variegated.’ ‘Sagae’ was discovered as a sport of *Hosta fluctuans* by Kenji Watanabe in Japan. It was found near the city of Sagae in Northern Honshu, the largest island in Japan.

‘Sagae’ is a large plant with leaves that have a bluish hue early and then become dark green. It has a 3/4" margin that changes from yellow to white, if it receives sun, but stays yellow if in shade. The undersides of the leaves have a moderate amount of whitish bloom. Leaves are shiny and of thick substance. It is somewhat slow to develop and form a colony, but well worth the wait. Even after over 20 years of availability and other hosta releases, it remains a popular plant. Perennially it is near the top in the AHS popularity poll, coming in at number 4 in 2019.

Flowers develop in mid-July to early August. They are pale lavender and are formed on scapes that may be over 4 feet long. This is a bit of a problem, for the plant forms a lot of pods which weigh down the scape and cause it to flop. Unless you want to germinate the seeds, cut the scapes off to improve the plant appearance.

‘Sagae’ is a popular breeding plant and one to watch for sports. In the MyHostas Database, 87 plants with ‘Sagae’ as the origin are listed. Sports such as ‘Liberty’, ‘Majesty’, ‘Ivory Coast’, and ‘Magic Fire’ all have a wider margin. Bred offspring include ‘Lakeside Surf Rider’, ‘Midnight Express’, ‘Millennium’, and ‘Margaret Eyre.’

Kenji Watanabe was a well-known author, hybridizer, and plant explorer at Gotemba Nursery in Japan. He authored one of the first hosta books in 1985, *The Observation and Cultivation of Hosta*, and introduced many plants including ‘Sagae’ and ‘Fuji Botan’, which he discovered on the slopes of Mt. Fuji.



H. ‘Sagae’ (E. Hagiwara - 1996, 2018)
(Photo by Glenn Herold)

In his book, written in Japanese, he cleared up many of the nomenclature issues that arose from plants introduced into the United States in the 1950's and 1960's and describes plants of his nursery, many of which he discovered as mutations in the wild. Mr. Watanabe was considered the top *Hosta* expert in Japan. Gotemba Nursery still exists, under the guidance of his sons.

A group of 16 AHS members toured Japan in 1995 and got to meet Mr. Watanabe and buy from his nursery. Bob Olson, the leader of the group, exchanged gifts with him and received a copy of his book. Bob said that his nursery had three greenhouses filled with hostas. The first was open to the public to buy from but didn't contain many plants of distinction. The second had interesting sports and variants, but was open by invitation only. The third was where his treasures were kept. Only special people could go in that house. Bob, Mark Zilis, and a few others were allowed in, where they took lots of pictures but made no purchases. Over \$5000 was spent by the group of 16 during the two hours at the nursery. No one opted to buy 'Fujibotan', which had a \$1000 price tag on it at that time.

I want to end this by giving a shout out to Margaret Eyre, both the plant and the person. The plant was bred by my friend Tom Micheletti in 2007 and named by him as a tribute to Margaret Eyre, the "Hosta Queen" of the Northern IL Hosta Society. Margaret passed away at the age of 97 in 2016 in Woodstock, IL, where she was born. Starting in 1988 (at the age of 70!), Margaret became active in her son's business, Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery. Her specialty was hostas and she propagated the plants and sold them to benefit Heifer International. She raised at least \$500,000 for world hunger, allowing Heifer to buy farm animals for people around the world with the agreement that those farmers would only take what they need and then give back to others in their community.



Leaf of *H. 'Sagae'*
(Photo by Glenn Herold)



Fall color of *H. 'Sagae'*
(Photo by Glenn Herold)

There are few hostas that equal the majesty of 'Sagae' and few people that match the generosity of Margaret, Rich, and Susan Eyre. If you are blessed in these trying times, pass it on to someone else, just as the Eyres do.



H. 'Liberty' (J. Machen, Jr. - 2000)
(Photo by Tom Micheletti)



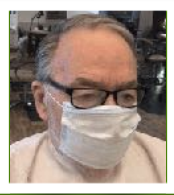
H. 'Margaret Eyre' (T. Micheletti - 2007)
(Photo by Tom Micheletti)



Flower of *H. 'Fujibotan'*
(Photo by Glenn Herold)



H. 'Fujibotan' (NR)
(Photo by Bob Olson)



GO HOSTAS!

Warren Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

GO HOSTAS!

Preventing Frost Damage to Hostas: Protection Coverings

This item by Gail Russo, Cedarville, New Jersey, is the last installment of her extensive three-part series on spring frost damage and prevention. The first part, "Strange Spring Weather of Causes Hosta Foliage Damage," was in Go Hostas! in July 2020 edition of AHS eNewsletter, pages 8-19. The second, "Spring Frost Damage to Hostas – Questions & Answers: A Guide with Solutions," was in January 2021 Go Hostas!, pages 6-11.

The topic of hosta frost damage and its prevention has never been dealt with before in any horticultural publication to the extent and practicability of this comprehensive series. Neither has the subject been expansively discussed at hosta meetings. This series is ground-breaking.

I want to extensively thank Gail for collecting the voluminous hands-on information, critically analyzing the various environmental situations and presenting the findings in an interesting pragmatic format. Her freezing temperature discussions in the second part are a one-of-a-kind applied textbook. And this part on protection coverings with tips on applications is an exclusive indispensable special guide, especially helpful because of the numerous on-site photos.



Gail Russo
(Selfie)

This instructive series will be a classic useful reference source in Hostadom for decades. I suggest you tag it in some way for easy handy referral. There could be a spring frost when you'll need the information quickly. Be prepared now!

This instructive series will be a classic useful reference source in Hostadom for decades. I suggest you tag it in some way for easy handy referral. There could be a spring frost when you'll need the information quickly. Be prepared now!

Spring. This is the season most hosta enthusiasts enjoy the most. Our hostas are waking up, looking fresh and bright. Normally, this is a wonderful, exciting time of the year, as the pips begin to emerge and leaves unfurl in all their glory with the gardens bursting forth in colors and texture. We can't wait to get outside to see how big they have gotten, how many divisions they have grown into and if the newer varieties are showing their true habits and colors. We can't wait to plant the seedlings we grew over the long winter and want to get the gardens cleaned up.

But last year's spring was one like few others. The David and Gail Russo Garden was among the first to experience the wrath of Mother Nature last year. We are located in southern New Jersey, Zone 6b/7a. We hardly had a winter in 2019-2020. The garden received approximately a quarter inch of snow for the entire winter, which lasted only about an hour before it turned to rain and melted. The ponds barely froze at all and the temperature didn't seem to fall much below 20° F [-6.67° C].

Because of this, the spring bulbs began to emerge in January, when normally it was March before they emerge. The hostas also began to emerge in February, with leaves unfurling in March. Our normal last frost date is May 15! We were hoping the warm trend would continue, but of course we got a freeze and experienced extensive damage instead.

We have thousands of hosta varieties planted over three acres, so it's nearly impossible to protect them all. Sadly, this strange spring weather pattern spread to most of the hosta growers in the United States. Gardeners throughout the central and northeast states experienced a late spring tropospheric polar vortex that sent temperatures plunging drastically in the first week of May.

The Boston area received a trace snowfall that set the record for second latest snow of the season. New York City set a record for the latest snowfall of the season since 1870! Snowflakes were spotted as far southeast as Washington D.C., Tennessee and North Carolina. Frost was scattered as far south as Georgia! Cold temperatures shattered all-time monthly records in Albany and Buffalo, New York.

At the same time we were experiencing record lows, the Desert Southwest was setting record high temperatures with Arizona recording 100+° F [37.78+° C]. Immediately following the record-setting temperatures, a reversal occurred, bringing fierce storms with hail, wind, tornadoes and bucketloads of rain.

By May 18, things pretty much had returned to normal, but gardeners were left to salvage the remains of their gardens and clean up the damage. Summer featured a mixed bag of excessive heat, high humidity, massive floods, drought and, finally, multiple inches of snow in Wisconsin in mid October. Hybridizers were disheartened to see few seed pods develop on their hostas: their efforts were in vain.

My July 2020 *Go Hostas!* article described the frost/freeze damage suffered in our garden April 17, 2020.

As the temperatures were forecasted to plunge across the country, there were many questions posted on social media by gardeners asking for advice on how best to protect their hostas for the anticipated weather. It seemed many had not encountered this extreme weather before and were unsure of what to do.

I contacted a number of hosta enthusiasts in different areas of the country, asking each to take note of the temperatures endured and what protection methods were used. I also asked them to take photos before and after showing the extent of the damage and what protection methods worked for them. I want to publicly thank everyone who contributed their time to share their experiences to help others weather these conditions in the future.

FINDINGS

• Marlene Rosenberg, Uniquely Hostas, Elroy, Wisconsin Zone 4b/5a

As the owner of a hosta nursery, Marlene has both display gardens and an extensive area of sales tables filled with hostas for retail sale. Because her display gardens are spread out, it is impractical to try to protect them all. Instead, she chose to focus her time, energy and resources protecting the plants in her sales area. Without healthy plants to sell, her business would take a severe setback.

Wisconsin is no stranger to cold weather, but even it does not normally face freeze warnings after their hostas are fully leafed out. On May 7, a freeze warning was issued for this area.

Marlene already had all of her potted plants for sales placed on the sales tables, instead of on the ground as they are normally stored until spring. She deeply watered all of the plants because wet soil will hold heat longer than dry soil. Next, she nailed wooden stakes to the corners and sides of each table 2 feet apart, and draped frost blankets over each table to “tent” it.

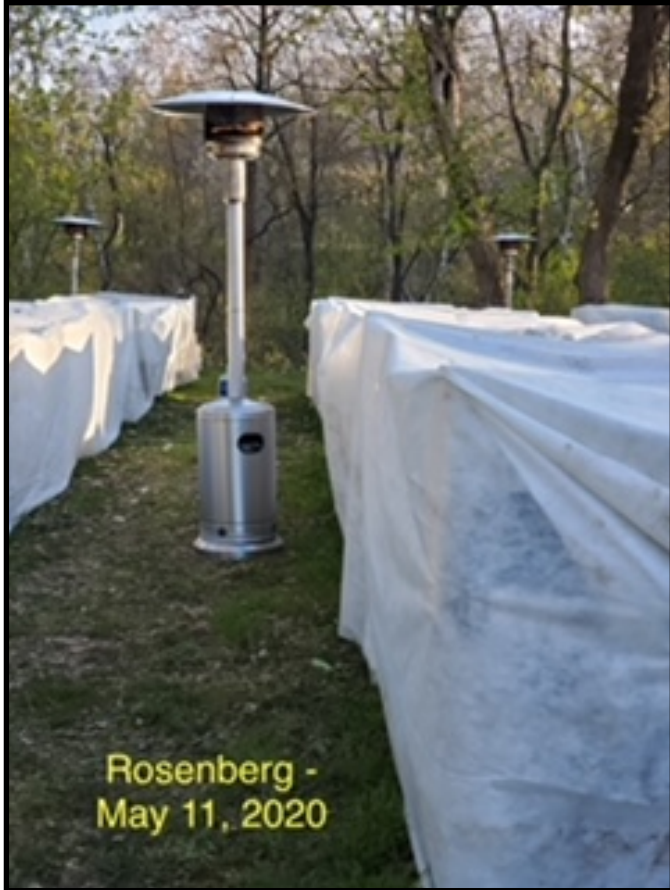
Frost blankets work to protect frost from landing on top of leaves, but a freeze was forecasted and a simple frost blanket would not hold in any heat. So Marlene decided to invest in 10 propane patio heaters and 9 infrared heaters to generate heat around her covered sales tables. She ran them throughout the night.

She reported the temperature fell to 27° F [-2.78° C] that night and her display gardens were mush, but her sales area remained at 33° F [0.56° C] thanks to the heaters and her tables suffered no damage.

Marlene stated that the propane infrared heaters work better because they are closer to the ground, and more cost efficient. Each cost \$85 and will run on a single 20 lb. propane tank on high for at least 24 hours.

Marlene added, “Since she now has heaters that also generate light, she may have a nighttime sales event in the future!”





• **Joe Jansen, Gurnee, Illinois Zone 5**

Joe reported that a freeze warning was issued with a forecasted low of 29° F [-1.67° C] on May 9. He has extensive gardens including hostas and many Japanese maple trees and conifers. More than half of his hostas were fully leafed out.

He stated that he used nearly everything he had to try to protect his hostas including: plastic tarps, plastic nursery pots, clay pots, ceramic pots, cardboard boxes, burlap, blankets, 30-gallon trash cans and plastic storage bins.

Joe reported that the plastic tarps did not work very well. There was considerable moisture underneath when the tarps were removed, and leaves that were in direct contact with the plastic showed freeze damage.

Plastic nursery pots that were placed without any leaves touching the sides worked well and the holes in the pots allowed moisture to escape instead of being trapped to freeze.



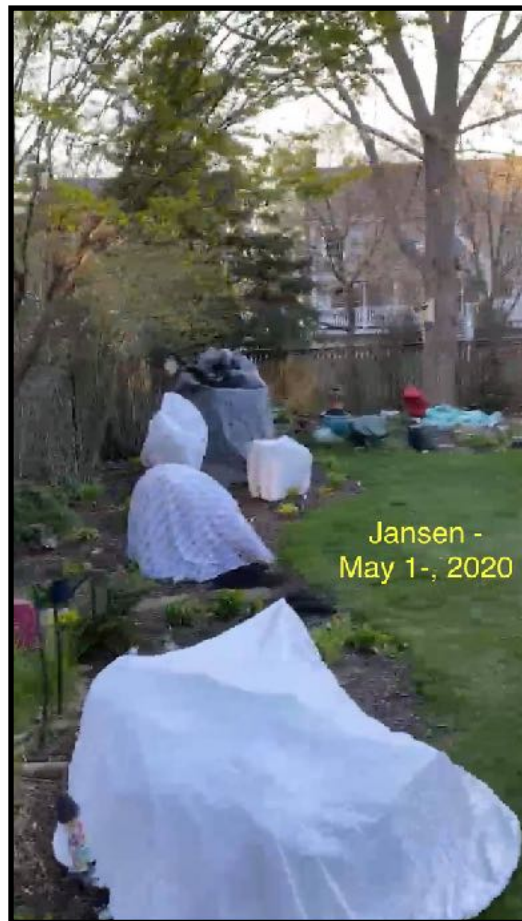
The clay pots, which also have a hole for moisture to escape, worked perfectly, with no damage to those hostas.

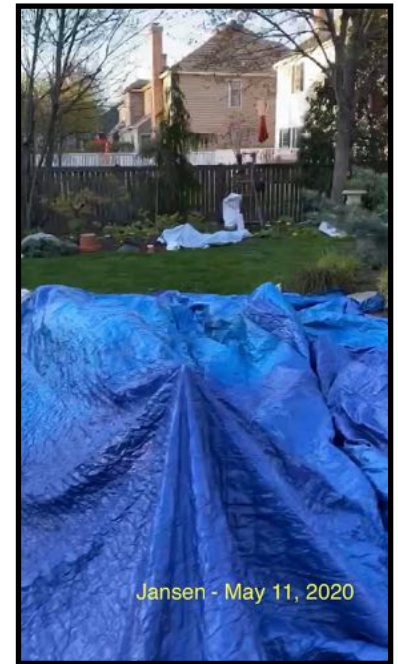
He reported using 2 layers of burlap worked to hold the heat from the ground while keeping the under layer dry and there was no damage to those hostas.

The garbage cans that did not touch the leaves worked very well to protect his larger hostas. The blankets held quite a bit of moisture but must also have held a good amount of heat in because there was no noticeable damage to those hostas.

The plastic storage containers worked well as long as the leaves were not touching the sides. Cardboard boxes worked well only when they did not touch the leaves. Leaves in contact showed some damage.

Joe stated that he believes the key to success is removing the covers as soon as possible after the temperature rises to allow the plants to air out and dry.





●**Dan Wols, Tinley Park, Illinois Zone 5b**

Dan is a renowned hybridizer with extensive plantings of many varieties of plants including hostas. Dan stated that he had at least 6 hours of temperatures of 29° F [-1.67° C] degrees, reaching as low as 26.7° F [-2.94° C]. He reported great success with minimal damage using cardboard boxes to cover his hostas, and this is his recommendation. He did note, however, that this could be difficult for a gardener trying to protect a great number of hostas and indicated that frost blankets or row covers might be a better option for them.

●**Brian White, Maynardville, Tennessee Zone 6b/7a**

Brian is owner of Brian White's Nursery. He stated that the temperature fell to 34° F [1.11° C] degrees several nights in a row. He has black shade cloths and leafed out trees over the areas his hostas are in. Brian stated that they seem to hold the heat and their low was only for a short time. He had no damage.

●Lee Couture, Raymond, Maine Zone 5a

Lee has an extensive hosta collection and reports that many of her hostas were fully leafed out on May 11 when she received a freeze warning. Lee reported that the temperature fell to a low of 29.5° F [-1.39° C] overnight. Lee used plastic nursery pots to cover her hostas. She reported little damage and noted that many of her plants are near rocks that seem to hold some heat into the evening, keeping the plants warmer at night. She noted that daytime temperatures were warm before the overnight lows.





●Mike Groothuis, Niles, Michigan Zone 5b

Mike has successfully used the sprinkler method in the past to protect his hostas from frost damage. He stated that when the water comes out of the ground it is in the mid-50s° F [10° C]. When it hits the hostas, it is much colder, but still warmer than freezing. The ice forms on the leaves giving minimal insulation from the ice freezing the leaves solid. If it gets too cold, the ice dries out and freezes the leaf, and it is a total loss. He tried to use the sprinklers method again this year, but noted that the temperatures fell to the mid-20s° F [-6.7° C] and nothing was spared from freeze damage. The plants sprayed with the sprinklers were encased in ice.

Photos numbered 1-6 were frozen in ice. Photos numbered 7-13 show some recovery after the ice melted. Mike noted the *H. plantaginea* hybrids suffered the most damage.





4
Groothuis - May 9, 2020



Groothuis -
May 9, 2020
5



6
Groothuis -
May 9, 2020



Groothuis - May 20, 2020
7



Groothuis - May 20, 2020 8



Groothuis 9
May 20, 2020



10
Groothuis -
May 20, 2020



11
Groothuis -
May 20, 2020



Groothuis -
May 20, 2020
12

●Don Rawson, Comstock Park, Michigan Zone 5b/6a

Don reported enduring 6 nights of sub-freezing temperatures. He reported using anything he had available to cover the hostas including nursery pots, trash cans, barrels, sheets, blankets, tarps, canvas awning and towels. He noted that there is often quite a bit of wind in his area and it is a challenge trying to keep the covers secured in place.

He noted that plastic tarps, garbage cans and nursery pots will damage the leaves wherever they come in direct contact. So finding containers large enough to fully cover the hostas without touching is a challenge.

He stated that his best option is bedspreads and comforters because they are heavy enough to stay in place and are not plastic, so they do the best job of protecting from frost and freeze. He also noted that with the expanse of his garden, this is not a one-man job! The photos illustrate the various covers used in his gardens, and frost damaged hostas with new growth emerging.







●Andrea DeMink, Indianapolis, Indiana Zone 5b/6a

Andrea flew into a panic when she received a freeze warning and was determined to ensure that her prized hostas were fully protected. She spent the entire day preparing her gardens for the onslaught. First, she visited the big box stores in her town and purchased all 30 of the frost blankets on the shelves. Next, she used everything she had available to cover her hostas including frost blankets, row covers, sheets, blankets, cardboard boxes, nursery pots, plastic storage bins, buckets and towels.



Andrea reported that it rained in the morning, then dried out before she covered her hostas, and then the temperature fell to 27° F [-2.78° C] that night for many hours. The photos show what she found while uncovering them the next morning. In the coldest part of her yard, there was frost all over the grass and uncovered plants.

Plants covered with nursery pots did well, even where the sides touched. Photo 1 was covered with a black plastic nursery pot.

Plants covered with frost blankets that are supposed to give 7° F [~4° C] protection did well on shorter plants. Taller plants had some damage to the top leaves where they touched the blanket. Photo 2 was covered with a frost blanket and has some damage to the top leaves.

Andrea noted that the lighter weight covers did better at protecting because they float over the leaves as opposed to weighing down on the tops. Photo 3 was underneath a row cover and sustained very little damage. The burnt tips were from a prior frost.

Plants covered with sheets and blankets suffered damage to the top leaves of the plant. This is where the cloth was in contact with the leaves.



Photo 4 shows wilted leaves when the blanket was removed.

Plants covered with towels show damage as spots. Andrea noted that there was moisture on the underside of the towel and the moisture is what damaged the leaf. Photo 5 shows a hosta with damage caused from a damp towel.





Photo 6 is a hosta covered with a blanket that was not staked up. All of the top leaves are wilted.

Photo 7 is a hosta covered with a sheet and then a frost blanket. Leaves are wilted.

Andrea noted that frost blankets not securely fastened to the ground were 75% successful. Cold air was allowed to enter and caused wilting. Photo 8 was covered with an unsecured frost blanket.

Photo 9 was covered by a blue tarp that was suspended on polygonatum (Solomon's seal) thus not touching the hosta leaves. There is no damage.

Photo 10 shows the various types of tarps and frost blankets used. Tarps are plastic and should only be used when you are able to stake them above the plants and secure the bottom to the ground. While touching leaves, tarps with frost on them offer no protection to those leaves. Frost blankets and row covers are designed to do the same thing, essentially, and that is to protect your plants by covering them. The major difference between the two is that frost blankets are thicker and heavier than row covers, thus able to protect plants from lower temperatures, like those experienced during frost/freezes. Row covers are used to protect plants from full sun or from wildlife, such as birds pilfering fruit. Row covers are a lighter material designed to "float" on top of vegetation and allows air flow and irrigation necessary to sustain life. They are designed to remain in place for long periods of time and only provide protection from very light frost. Frost blankets are a heavier material,



and the packaging will specify the temperature they are guaranteed to protect plants from. They must be removed as soon as possible because air flow is restricted and heat with moisture will gather to further damage plants. Frost blankets, being heavier material, will also weigh down foliage to cause further damage.

Photo 11 shows damage when a sheet was used as a cover, and not staked up.





Photo 12 shows no damage when covered by a lightweight rain canopy, shown in Photo 13.

Photo 14 shows minimal wilting when covered with a lightweight painter's drop cloth, shown in Photo 15.

Photo 16 shows no damage when covered in satin sheets.



Andrea noted that hostas covered with cardboard boxes showed no damage at all because they did not touch the leaves of the plants and did not gather moisture.

Andrea recommends cardboard boxes as the best choice for covering, along with gift bags and paper bags.

Her second recommend is plastic nursery pots and plastic buckets, as long as they do not touch the sides. Her third is plastic storage containers, in a large enough size to fully cover the hosta.

Her fourth, light weight row covers, frost blankets, painter's drop cloth and rain canopy.



Lastly, Andrea recommends using sheets, blankets and towels only when you can keep them dry, because the moisture on the cloth touching the hosta is what damages the plant. These coverings are best if they can be staked above the plant.

Recommendations

I again wish to express my gratitude to those who responded and supplied information and photos. Many methods were used to protect hostas when the April-May 2020 frost/freeze was predicted.

Andrea DeMink provided the greatest amount of information and accompanying photos. She used many protective covering methods:

- Cardboard boxes, paper bags, gift bags
- Plastic nursery pots, 5-gallon plastic buckets, lightweight rain-fabric canopy
- White row covers, Rubbermaid®-type plastic containers
- Green frost blankets, blue poly tarps
- Bed sheets, bedspreads and towels

Big cardboard boxes are a #1 protection choice to avoid spring frost damage. Usually they are the cartons in which items were shipped to you by delivery services or perhaps sourced from friendly big box stores and other sites. Typically, they are discarded and recycled—and thus no expense. Significantly, they can be folded flat and usually take up little storage space. Also, they are easily reassembled and kept open with packaging tape. (Don't use duct tape; it does not stick well to cardboard.) Keep the number and size of your hostas in mind and seek big boxes that will cover them.

Boxes work best because they do not require staking to elevate them—provided they are large enough. If wind is forecasted, you will need heavy objects, such as rocks, to weigh down the boxes on either the top or the flaps on the ground. Ground pins also will keep them from blowing away. As a last resort, you could throw a heavy blanket over the boxes to keep them weighted down, without touching the leaves and damaging them.

Pots, buckets, trash/garbage cans and other hard-type containers are good choices. They don't need staking to elevate them. Plastic nursery pots are good coverings, too. Note Lee Couture and Don Rawson used them extensively. The 20- and 32-gal. plastic trash/garbage cans are particularly good coverings. Note use by Don Rawson and Joe Jansen to protect larger hosta clumps.

Large brown Kraft paper bags are useful coverings, also. They come in many sizes. Two that are commonly available open up to about 6" x 9" x 11" high and about 6" x 12" x 17" tall, and can protect small- and medium-size plants. They are available with rope handles that, with pins and other objects, can anchor the bags to the ground. Gift bags are normally coated with a plastic gloss and can be used similarly. Very conveniently, bags also fold flat and take up little storage space.

If you use frost blankets, bed coverings, tarps or other "fabric" covering, you must make sure they do not touch the leaves to prevent damage. "Tenting" is required. To accomplish this, any objects taller than the hostas will do, such as chairs, ladders, tomato cages and stakes, poles, statuary, neighboring bushes, even shovels! Note Joe Jansen's coverings. Your covers need to be securely fastened to the ground to prevent cold air from invading since coldest air settles to the ground. Rocks and buckets filled with dirt or water work OK.

When significant wind is in the forecast, frost is unlikely to be able to settle on top of your hostas. Therefore, freezing is more likely to occur. Remember, wind chill does not affect plants, only actual air temperature that is recorded close to the ground.

During the cold, protecting your hostas from moisture freezing is key. Both keeping the coverings elevated over the leaves and securing them to the ground are essential.

It is imperative that you *remove all coverings as soon as the damaging weather has passed*. Normally, this is in the early morning hours, before the sun can significantly heat up the space underneath your coverings. This heat will cause moisture to develop that can further damage your hostas if it gets too hot or when it gets cold again and freezes.

Removing the coverings allows air to circulate and dry up excess moisture. If several days of frost/freeze are forecasted, this is often a difficult decision as covering-removing-recovering is a tedious task, especially when you have a large number of hostas to protect. If it is overcast with temperatures remaining constant, less caution is required. But if possible, it's always best to uncover as soon as you can.

The water sprinkling method only works in specific conditions. It is not recommended unless you're familiar with it. Note Mike Groothuis's report.

If you are trying to protect a large area and can afford the cost, consider Marlene Rosenberg's outdoor heaters.

It's sometimes better to do nothing at all if you are unsure or do not have protective coverings.

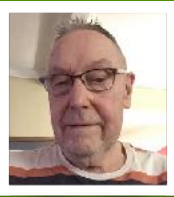
Nobody can predict that a late frost/freeze will affect your area until the time to act is upon you—often with only a few hours of notice. Unless you are content to let Mother Nature have her way with your hostas, develop a Protection Plan well before spring frost might occur.

Make sure you have your coverings, packaging tape, tape dispenser, scissors, tenting supplies and other items on hand without having to make a mad dash to every store in your area to purchase what can be available and free now. It's better to be prepared and not need them than to be sorry to find you do not have the time or resources to protect your investment when necessary. Think of it as a worthwhile inexpensive type of insurance.

Lastly, remember that even if your hostas are damaged by frost/freeze, they are likely to recover within about a month, *though not as large as before*. Part One of this series showed regrowth of my hostas a month after the frost/freeze. Wait until the damage is evident as indicated by wilting to remove only the damaged foliage. This could include cutting off only half of leaves. Where the leaf tissue remains green and firm, it is producing chlorophyll for the plant to regrow and should not be removed until there are sufficient healthy leaves to support the plant. Remember to always practice tool sanitation to prevent accidental spread of Hosta Virus X.

GO HOSTAS!





Book Notice

Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

Hostas

Written by Diana Grenfell

Published by Cassell Illustrated ; Octopus Publishing Group : 2005 (Re-print)

Designer: Justin Hunt

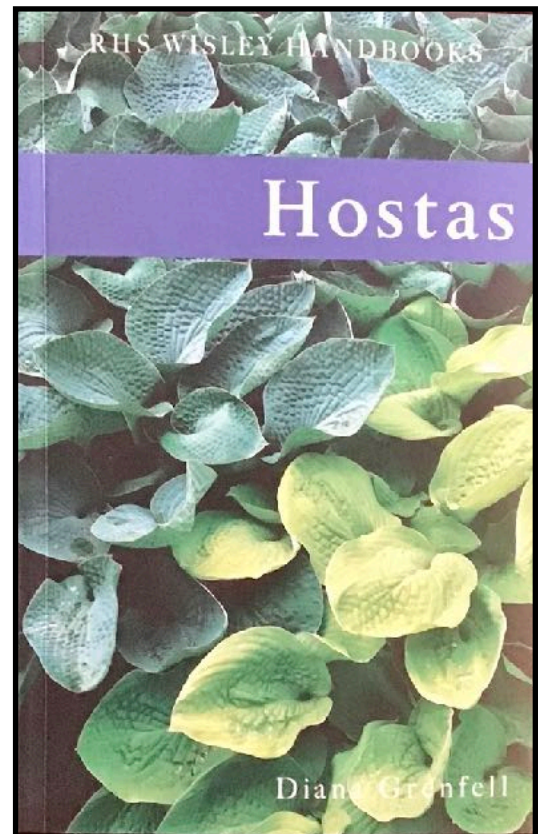
Commissioning Editor: Camilla Stoddart

There are many hostaphiles like me who want to have a complete and, yes, complete Hosta library, particularly with books that are devoted solely to our favorite genus. Here we have one by none other than Diana Grenfell that surely must be included. Grenfell is one of that esteemed group of vanguards responsible for promoting the genus as well as describing it and educating us in the many aspects of cultivation, incorporation, care, and , particularly, selections for our gardens. This, the third of her books on hostas, with wonderful others yet to come, is part of the Royal Horticulture Society's Wisely Handbooks. Wisely Gardens, in Surrey , England, was well-known for its breathtakingly beautiful gardens and the important research that it sponsored in horticultural science.

The first sentence of the INTRODUCTION first published 19 years ago remains true today: " Hostas are the most popular foliage plants in both Britain and America." Don't let that statement be enough of an intro, for what immediately follows is a detailed and valuable discussion of of the history of hostas in the Western World.

To me, it was fascinating to learn that the first illustration of a hosta done by Englebert Kaempfer was called by him Jokan vulgo gibboosi Gladilolus Plantaginis-useful knowledge to impress at a cocktail party!

Following the Introduction, the section HOW TO GROW HOSTAS presents basic but important information and instruction on providing shade through trees and by artificial means. , improving various types of soils, container growing in general , spacing plants in your garden , watering , mulching, propagation, hybridization , and an area that must be included but one I do not get any pleasure out of reading— pests and diseases. To coin a phrase, this section indeed covers the hostafront. Ugh!



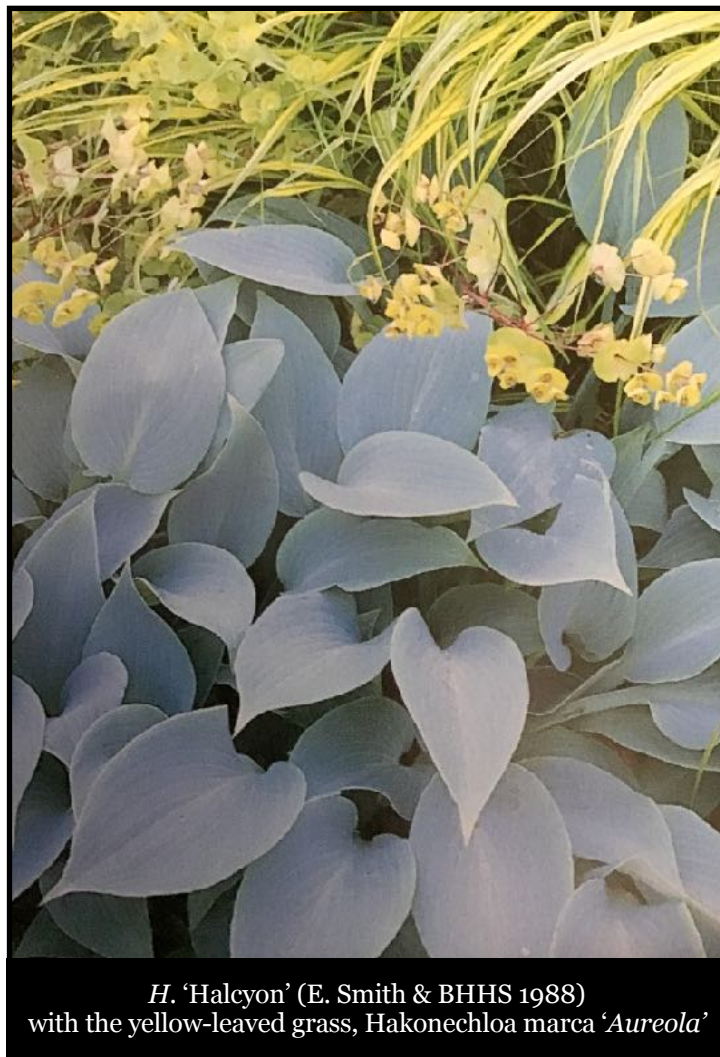
HOSTA IN THE GARDEN, the third section, goes into very deep detail on creating shade and shelter for hostas accompanied by lists of recommended large and small trees, shrubs, and a favorite of mine—grasses and bamboos. Another favorite can be found here: Companions For Hostas in the Shade. Here are described shade-tolerant perennials and grasses, plus the incorporation of bulbs. The section ends with comments on hostas on the patio and terrace, at the waterside and a neat list of varieties suitable for container growing.

The final section is A SELECTION OF HOSTA SPECIES AND CULTIVARS. To be sure, thousands upon thousands of cultivars have entered the market since this edition was published; nevertheless, I personally find these older lists not only interesting historically but helpful in finding a particular cultivar that I was unaware of, one that would be worthy of tracking down to obtain for my collection.

This little (96 pages) book is a must for the connoisseur (that means every hostaphile) and can be found for sale on the Internet and other sources. One final yet important note. The photographs are not only plentiful but charming as well. I could not find an acknowledgement as to who the photographer was, so I am led to assume that it was Diana Grenfell herself! Congratulations on two scores!

Happy, Healthy, Helping Others!

Clyde



H. 'Halcyon' (E. Smith & BHHS 1988)
with the yellow-leaved grass, *Hakonechloa macrochaeta* 'Aureola'



And In Other Hosta News . . .

Alex J. Summers Award Due By April 1, 2021

Eunice Fisher Award Due By March 15, 2021

We need your help!

The **Alex J. Summers Award** and the **Eunice Fisher Award** are two awards designed by the American Hosta Society to recognize member achievement and to encourage activities that promote the genus *Hosta*. Both recognize those members who have contributed in significant ways. The **Alex J. Summers Award** recognizes service to the genus, to our society, or both. The **Eunice Fisher Award** recognizes those whose contributions lie mainly in hybridizing.

The recipients are selected from nominations received from you - our members. YOUR participation in making a nomination is key to this process in recognizing a fellow hostaholic for their contributions to the AHS.

Don't miss this opportunity to actively participate in the nomination process - energizing and honoring a fellow AHS member. The selection committee needs your input! Nomination forms only take a few minutes to fill out. Please help us consider those who may be deserving of these honors. Honorees will be recognized at the **virtual 2021** AHS National Convention.

[Submit your nominations online to the AHS Nomination Mailbox.](#)

(Your member password can be found in your previous *Journal*.)

[Or print and return these nomination forms.](#)

Thank you in advance for your nomination contribution.

Janet Hommel Mangas

jsmangas@aol.com

VP Awards and Honors

American Hosta Society

WE'RE GOING
Virtual!

Join us!
JULY 15-17, 2021

AHS2021.org



AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY NATIONAL CONVENTION
KALAMAZOO, MI

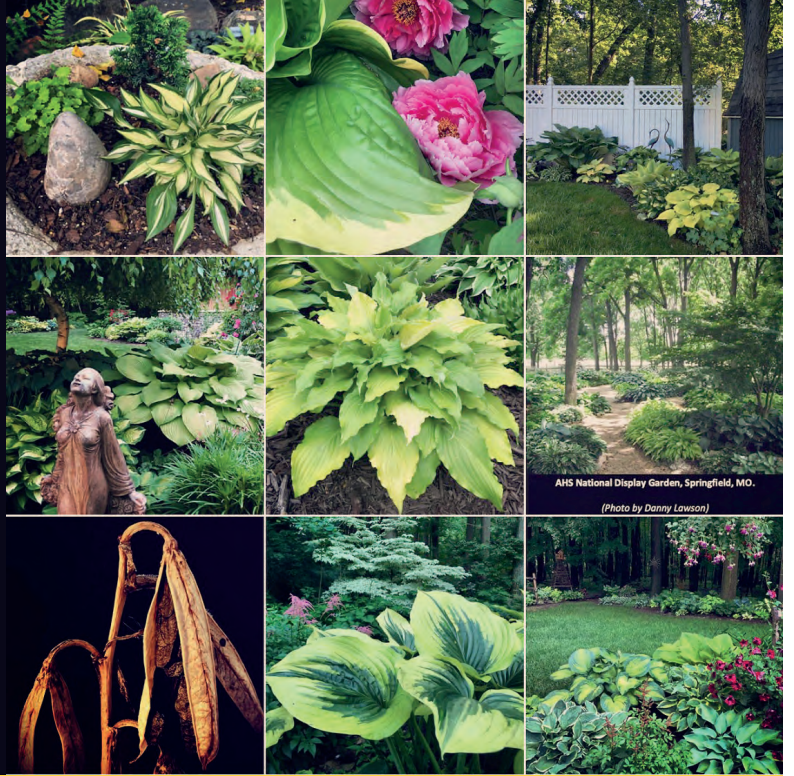


AHS Convention Gift Hosta: *H.* 'Silly String' (H. Hansen - 2018)

Follow

The American Hosta Society
on Instagram!
[@americanhostasociety](https://www.instagram.com/americanhostasociety)

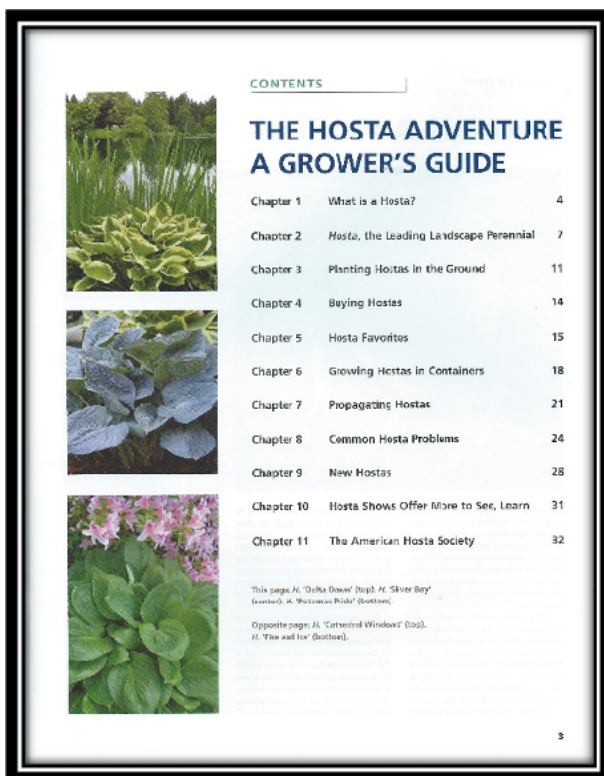
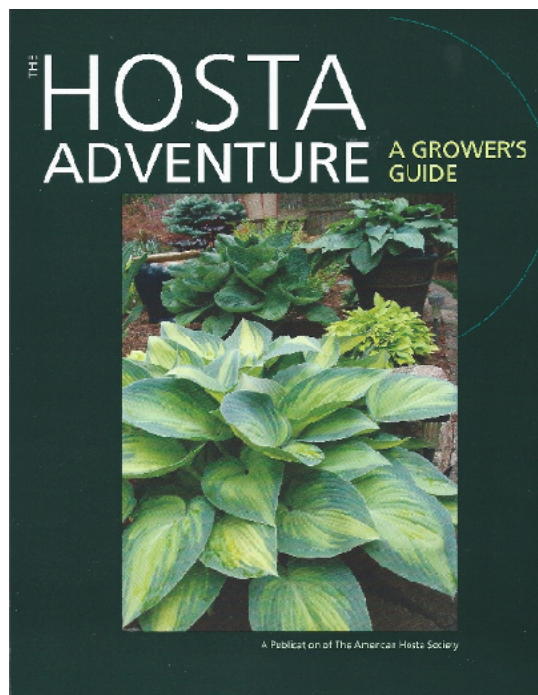
Discover beautiful
hosta images,
landscapes
and inspiring ideas.



From AHS Publications

The Hosta Adventure, Third Edition, contains a wealth of information about growing hostas. First published in 2001, *The Hosta Adventure* was intended as a guide for novices, but it appealed to all levels of hosta gardeners. The first two editions were popular additions to the libraries of new and seasoned gardeners. Now a new *Adventure* beckons.

This new edition of *The Hosta Adventure* is updated with the latest information including buying, planting, and growing hostas.



There is a chapter on growing hostas in containers. Common problems encountered in hosta culture with solutions to these common problems is included. For those interested in propagation, information on division of plants, bud cutting, and the Ross method is included.

If you are new to hostas, a chapter on hosta favorites gives you an idea of hostas to acquire that are viewed as good plants by other hosta growers. A chapter on new hostas, including sports and seedlings is informative.

A list of popular hosta books that you may want to add to your library is given, as is information on hosta shows, and information on how to link up with fellow hosta growers by joining The American Hosta Society.

This publication should be part of every hosta grower's library.

Order *The Hosta Adventure—A Grower's Guide - 3rd Edition*

\$4.00 + \$2.50 postage for members or \$5.50 + \$2.50 postage for non-members



Front cover: *H. 'June'* takes center stage in a set garden (photo by Larry Tucker).
 The page: *H. 'Rival'* and *H. 'Sailing Lady'* (top left) are complementary with subtle and subtle variegation. *H. 'Autumn'* (top right) is a model of color texture and substance. *H. 'Circus'* (bottom right) commands attention. *H. 'Mantara'* (*'Parasol'*) (bottom left), with early emergence and staying power, is a potential favorite.



Stately *H. 'Cocoa Royal'* (top right) has been a classic for decades. *H. 'Kahuna'* (bottom right) creates a thick, bright border around larger plants. *H. 'Newlander'* (bottom left) is hardier than most look-alike because its scattered center holds more chlorophyll. *H. 'Robert Frost'* is a worthy namesake of the American poet laureate.

The Hosta Adventure is filled with stunning photos of hostas and hosta gardens.

Here is a great way to reward new members of your local club. Give them a copy of this American Hosta Society publication.

For local societies and nurseries, the best price per copy is in bulk:

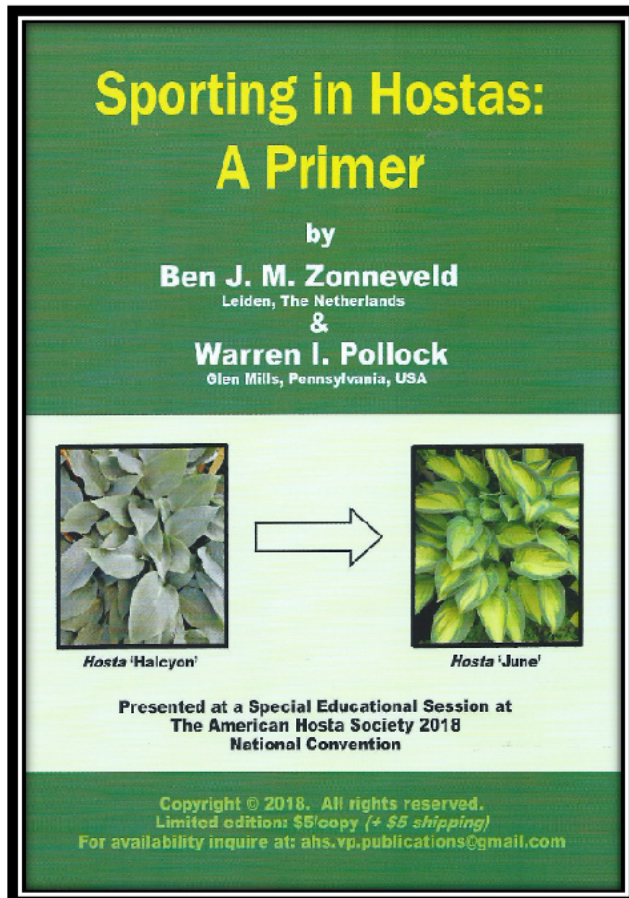
- 2-6 books, \$4.00 each + \$8.00 postage
- 7-30 books, \$4.00 each + \$15.00 postage
- 31-99 books, \$3.75 each + \$21.00 postage
- 100-499 books, \$3.25 each + \$27.00 postage

(All prices postpaid in the U.S.) Orders from foreign countries will pay any additional shipping charges.

Make checks payable to *The American Hosta Society* and send to:

Barry Ankney, AHS VP Publications
Hosta Adventure
1104 Oxford Court
Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181

From AHS Publications



Ben J. M. Zonneveld and Warren I. Pollock have researched and written a booklet about sporting in hostas. Based on nearly ten years of research, this 28-page booklet describes the process of sporting.

Sporting in Hostas: A Primer, was compiled by Dr. Pollock. He gave a presentation at the American Hosta Society (AHS) National Convention held in Philadelphia in 2018, highlighting the major points contained in this publication.

Hosta enthusiasts interested in how and why hostas mutate, or sport, have found this source book of great value. Dr. Pollock, along with the late Gregg Peterson, Past President of the American Hosta Society, and one other donor funded the printing of this booklet and

generously donated these booklets to the AHS. All proceeds from the sale of *Sporting in Hostas* go to the general fund of the AHS, to further its educational goals.

This booklet outlines the basic principles of sporting, explaining the three layers of cells that are contained in the meristem or apical dome in the shoot of the hosta plant. He explains the chromosomal makeup of hostas, and the concept of ploidy, or the number of sets of chromosomes in the cell nucleus. The difference between sports and hybrids is covered.

The eleven (11) sporting rules in hostas are presented, including examples of each. Also, examples of unusual sporting with photos of many of the examples are presented. An appendix contains selective slides from Warren's presentation at the National Convention.

A second appendix provides some hosta sporting statistics compiled by Hugo Phillips, founder and custodian of the “MyHostas” website. For those inclined to study this process further, a final appendix lists resources for additional reading.

CONTENTS

Page 1	Basic Principles
Page 3	Sporting rules in hostas #1 - #11
Page 9	Examples of unusual sporting
Page 22	Appendix A: PowerPoint™ slides
Page 27	Appendix B: Hosta sporting statistics
Page 28	Appendix C Further reading

While some elements are rather technical, Warren walks the reader through this fascinating process of change in hostas with plenty of photos and practical examples. The reader will come away with new knowledge of how hostas change to produce new and interesting plants.

This valuable resource is available only from the American Hosta Society.

You may order your copy from AHS Publications by mailing a check payable to *The American Hosta Society* in the amount of \$10.00 (postage paid) to:

Barry Ankney, AHS VP Publications
Sporting in Hostas
1104 Oxford Court
Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181

AHS Membership



The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a society dedicated to the study and improvement of the genus *Hosta* and the dissemination of general and scientific knowledge about hostas. There are numerous benefits for the members that result from these efforts, both social and in nursery trade. All AHS members receive several publications a year, including two colorful issues of *The Hosta Journal* (mailed), four *eNewsletters* (emailed), along with *The Online Hosta Journal* (posted on the web for members only). These *Journals* include articles on cultivation tips, propagation techniques, landscape uses, new cultivars and old species, pioneers and personalities, scientific advances, convention awards, gardens, and news about the AHS.

Membership provides an opportunity to attend national meetings and conventions, which offer educational and scientific presentations, garden tours, judge's clinics, and a chance to see the latest and best hostas in the hosta show.

Other membership benefits:

- The privilege of visiting display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members.
- An invitation to exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional hosta shows.
- Developing friendships with people who share an interest in growing hostas.
- Access to Members Only section of the AHS website.

Another benefit of becoming a new member is you receive a voucher from the AHS Membership Secretary good for \$15.00 towards any purchase at sponsoring nurseries. For information about this program, go to:

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/AHSVoucherProgram.htm>

Print and mail the Membership Application form on the next page, or to join online, go to: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/Membership/Membership.htm>



Photo by Don Rawson

Give a gift membership!

To pay by credit card online: www.hosta.org

Membership type _____ \$ _____

RENEWAL GIFT MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS CHANGE
 Contact info. as it will appear in the AHS Member Directory:

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Country _____

Membership type		1 yr.	3 yr.	5 yr.	Life
USA	Individual	\$30	\$80	\$129	\$900
	Family	\$34	\$90	\$146	
Canada	Individual	\$39	\$107	\$168	\$1,170
	Family	\$43	\$117	\$185	
Europe	Individual	\$51	\$142	\$219	\$1,530
	Family	\$55	\$152	\$236	
Pacific	Individual	\$59	\$165	\$254	\$1,770
Rim	Family	\$62	\$175	\$267	
E-Membership*		\$20			

*Online digital versions only.

RENEW NOW AND SAVE! Add \$5 for renewals postmarked or entered online after March 1, 2021.

Check or money order in U.S. dollars and drawn on a U.S. bank.
 Make check payable to: American Hosta Society.

**MAIL THIS
 ENTIRE PAGE +
 PAYMENT TO:**

**Sandie Markland
 AHS Membership Secretary
 P.O. Box 7539
 Kill Devil Hills NC 27948**